

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05
IO-13 OIC-02 HA-05 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /095 W
-----091508 071511Z /72

R 061400Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2212
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
/AMEMBASSY LONDON 5489
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T ANKARA 4264

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PGOV, AF, PK, UR CENTO
SUBJ: CENTO COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES REVIEW OF AFGHANISTAN SITUATION

REF: (A) ANKARA 3665, (B) STATE 141033

1. SUMMARY. AT JUNE 5 CENTO COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES MEETING,
THE AFGHANISTAN SITUATION WAS AGAIN REVIEWED BY THE MEMBERS.
PAKISTAN SUPPORTED BY IRAN CLAIMED THAT A SOVIET-AFGHANISTAN-
INDIAN AXIS WAS IN THE MAKING, AND THAT IRAN AND PAKISTAN COULD
NO LONGER TAKE AT FACE VALUE THE CLAIMS OF THE AFGHAN
GOVERNMENT OF BEING NON-ALIGNED. THE IRANIAN DEPUTY SAID
THAT THE COUP IN KABUL WAS PART OF A MASTER SOVIET STRATEGY
IN THE ALLIANCE AREA AND "REPRESENTS A CHANGE OF HISTORIC
PROPORTION NOT JUST FOR OUR REGION BUT FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD."
THE PAKISTANI DEPUTY CALLED FOR PROOF OF CENTO'S COMMITMENT
TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE REGIONAL MEMBERS AND
TOLD THE DEPUTIES PRIVATELY THAT PAKISTAN WOULD LEAVE
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THE ALLIANCE WITHIN A YEAR UNLESS "SOMETHING WAS DONE." THE
TURKISH DEPUTY LIMITED HIS REMARKS TO NOTING THAT DEVELOP-
MENTS IN AFGHANISTAN JUSTIFY CONCERN AND THAT CENTO "MUST
NOT BE SHOWN TO BE INDIFFERENT." CENTO SYG GURUN SAID THAT
THE BORDERS AFGHANISTAN HAD IN COMMON WITH THE REGIONAL
MEMBERS WERE NOW THOSE OF THE USSR. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONTRAST TO THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING (REF A), IRANIAN DEPUTY (TATMANGLIDJ) READ A PREPARED OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF IRANIAN VIEWS ON THE AFGHAN SITUATION. THE IRANIAN SAID THAT THE COUP IN KABUL "REPRESENTS A CHANGE OF HISTORIC PROPORTION NOT JUST FOR THE REGION BUT FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD." IRAN, HE SAID, WOULD LIKE TO TAKE AFGHANISTAN'S PROTESTATIONS OF NON-ALIGNMENT AT FACE VALUE BUT EVIDENCE OF OVERWHELMING COMMUNIST MEMBERSHIP IN BOTH THE AFGHAN CABINET AND MILITARY LEADS IRAN TO CONCLUDE THAT STATEMENTS ABOUT NON-ALIGNMENT ARE ONLY "TACTICAL MANEUVERS." IRAN VIES THE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT AS TOTALLY IN CONTROL AND THAT "WE SHOULD NOT DELUDE OURSELVES" THAT AN ANTI-COMMUNIST COUNTER-COUP HAS ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS. THE COUP IN KABUL IS THE PRODUCT OF A GRAND SOVIET DESIGN TO CONTROL THE PERSIAN GULF AND INDIAN OCEAN WHICH THE IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER OUTLINED AT THE CENTO MINISTERIAL IN LONDON. "WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT AFGHANISTAN FOR A LONG TIME", BUT THE IRANIAN ADDED WITH SARCASM, "IRAN WAS TOLD THAT AFGHANISTAN WOULD ALWAYS BE A BUFFER STATE." AFGHANISTAN, HOWEVER, IS NOW A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT UNDER THE EFFECTIVE INFLUENCE AND CONTROL OF THE USSR. "WE MAY BE SEEING THE BEGINNING OF A USSR-AFGHANISTAN-INDIAN AXIS DESIGNED TO UNDERMINE THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF PAKISTAN." THE IRANIAN CONCLUDED BY SAYING, "EVENTS ARE OVERTAKING US WITH RAPIDITY AND WE NEED COLLECTIVE ACTION TO COUNTER THOSE EVENTS."

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3. THE PAKISTANI DEPUTY (SHAIKH) APPLAUDED THE REMARKS OF HIS IRANIAN COLLEAGUE NOTING ONLY THAT A USSR-AFGHANISTAN-INDIAN AXIS WAS A FACT WHOSE "OUTLINE IS NO LONGER BLURRED." SHAIKH LISTED THE FOLLOWING "FACTS" PRESUMABLY DEMONSTRATING AFGHAN PERFDY:

- THE AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S FIRST VISIT IS TO MOSCOW;
- A PROMINENT SOVIET LECTURER SAID IN MOSCOW THAT MARXIST-LENINISTS HAVE COME TO POWER IN AFGHANISTAN;
- SOVIET MEDIA CONTINUES TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT;
- 3,000 SOVIET ADVISORS HAVE ARRIVED IN AFGHANISTAN AND A MOSCOW-KABUL "HOTLINE" WAS ESTABLISHED.
- THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT STATED THAT THE PUSHTUNISTAN AND BALUCHISTAN QUESTIONS WILL BE SOLVED IN THIER "HISTORICAL CONTEXT."

SHAIKH CONTINUED THAT AFGHAN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE RECENTLY TRANSITTED PAKISTAN SAID THAT THE GOP SHOULD LEAVE CENTO. "IT SEEMS THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE MOTIVATED THIS STATEMENT AS IT IS THE FIRST TIME ANY AFGHAN GOVERNMENT HAS EVER MADE SUCH A STATEMENT." THE PAKISTANI CONCLUDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT THE AFGHANISTAN SITUATION WILL HAVE THE URGENT ATTENTION OF OUR ALLIES, THAT THE

SITUATION IS ACUTE AND THAT THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT OF THE NECESSITY OF CENTO REAFFIRMING THE PRINCIPLE OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE REGION. (NOTE: AT LUNCHEON PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL MEETING AMBASSADOR SHAIKH SAID THAT PAKISTAN WOULD LEAVE CENTO WITHIN A YEAR "UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE." HE WAS NOT MORE SPECIFIC.)

4. IN BRIEF REMARKS THE TURKISH DEPUTY (SUBASI) SAID THAT THE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT WAS CONCENTRATING ON ESTABLISHING COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THE COUNTRY. STATEMENTS OF AFGHAN NON-ALIGNMENT WERE "OBVIOUSLY TO ALLAY THE FEARS OF THE AFGHAN POPULATION." SOVIET PRESENCE IN THAT COUNTRY IS INCREASING WITH 16 ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS WORTH 29 MILLION RUBLES SIGNED SINCE THE COUP. EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN CLEARLY
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JUSTIFY OUR CONCERN WHICH IS NOT SHARED BY WORLD PUBLIC OPINION. CENTO MUST NOT BE SEEN TO BE INDIFFERENT, HE CONCLUDED.

5. THE DEPUTY FROM THE U.K. SAID THAT HE DID NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO THE PRESENTATIONS ALREADY MADE EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT THE U.K. HAD MADE KNOWN INFORMALLY ITS CONCERN OVER THE TREATMENT OF THOSE ARRESTED IN AFGHANISTAN.

6. CHARGE READ TALKING POINTS PROVIDED REF B ADDING ONLY THAT THE U.S. WAS CONFERRING REGULARLY IN ISLAMABAD AND TEHRAN ON THE AFGHAN SITUATION.

7. CENTO SYG GURUN SAID THOSE PORTIONS OF THE AFGHAN BORDER IN COMMON WITH CENTO MEMBERS MUST NOW BE CONSIDERED TO BE THOSE OF THE USSR. GURUN ADDED THAT CENTO MUST STRENGTHEN THE SECURITY LINKS BETWEEN MEMBERS AND THAT ONE WAY WAS THE QUICK COMPLETION OF THE POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER NECESSARY FOR EFFECTIVE MILITARY PLANNING. THE SYG SAID THAT CENTO MUST DEMONSTRATE THAT IT CONTINUES TO BE DEDICATED TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ITS MEMBERS WHICH OCCUPY SUCH IMPORTANT STRATEGIC GEOGRAPHICAL POSITIONS. HE NOTED THAT EVENTS IN AFRICA HAVE RECEIVED FAR GREATER PRESS PLAY THAN THOSE IN AFGHANISTAN BUT THAT "CLEARLY, THE CENTO REGION IS AS IMPORTANT AS AFRICA." DILLON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ANKARA04264
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780237-1209
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780694/aaaadclf.tel
Line Count: 161
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 68246e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ANKARA 3665, 78 STATE 141033
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2483582
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CENTO COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES REVIEW OF AFGHANISTAN SITUATION
TAGS: PGOV, AF, PK, UR, CENTO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/68246e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014